

2009 Vote Ratings

Key Votes Used to Calculate the Ratings

Here are the 99 Senate votes and 92 House votes on which *National Journal's* 2009 vote ratings are based. The Congressional Record roll-call number is followed by the bill number, a description of the vote, the date, the outcome, the prevailing side—conservative (C) or liberal (L)—and the weight given to each (from 1 for the lowest weight to 3 for the highest) based on how closely the vote fits the overall pattern.

SENATE (99 votes)

Economic Issues (48 votes)

3/S22	Designate more than 2 million acres as national wilderness protection areas. January 15. (73-21) L-2	40/HR1	Waive budget rules on an amendment to require deficit reduction after two quarters of economic growth. February 4. (44-53; 60 votes required to waive the Budget Act) L-3
5/SJRes5	Block the release of the second half of the funds for the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program. January 15. (42-52) L-3	42/HR1	Waive budget rules on an amendment to cut income-tax rates. February 4. (37-60; 60 votes required to waive budget rules) L-3
11/S181	Table an amendment limiting union organizing activities. January 22. (66-31) L-3	46/HR1	Create a 60-vote point of order in spending bills against unauthorized earmarks. February 5. (32-65) L-2
15/PN64-6	Confirm Timothy Geithner as Treasury secretary. January 26. (60-34) L-2	57/HR1	Temporarily reduce business taxes to stimulate the economy. February 6. (41-55) L-3
16/HR2	Table an amendment that would require cost sharing for enrollees in the State Children's Health Insurance Program whose family income exceeds 200 percent of the federal poverty level. January 27. (60-37) L-3	64/HR1	Pass a \$787 billion economic stimulus bill. February 13. (60-38; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) L-3
18/HR2	Adopt the Republican alternative on legislation expanding and reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program. January 28. (32-65) L-3	66/PN64-18	Confirm Hilda Solis as Labor secretary. February 24. (80-17) L-2
23/HR2	Adopt a moderate version of legislation expanding and reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program. January 28. (47-51) L-3	96/HR1105	Invoke cloture on the \$410 billion fiscal 2009 omnibus appropriations bill. March 10. (62-35; 60 votes required to invoke cloture) L-3
25/HR2	Table an amendment that blocks federal funding for recipients of the State Children's Health Insurance Program whose family income exceeds 300 percent of the federal poverty level. January 29. (54-44) L-3	99/HR146	Invoke cloture on omnibus public lands legislation. March 16. (73-21; 60 votes required to invoke cloture) L-2
31/HR2	Expand and reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program. January 29. (66-32) L-3	103/HR146	Table an amendment prohibiting the use of eminent domain to acquire land under the omnibus public lands legislation. March 18. (63-35) L-3
33/HR1	Waive budget rules to devote more money in the economic stimulus bill to infrastructure projects. February 3. (58-39; 60 votes required to waive the Budget Act) C-3	113/HR1388	Express the sense of the Senate that the current tax deduction for charitable giving be maintained. March 26. (48-49) L-3
34/HR1	Strike a tax break for Hollywood production companies from the economic stimulus bill. February 3. (52-45) C-2	126/SConRes13	Prohibit the use of fast-track budget reconciliation procedures to pass climate-change legislation. April 1. (67-31) C-2
		128/SConRes13	Charge wealthy Medicare beneficiaries higher premiums for their prescription drug benefits. April 2. (39-58) L-3

140/SConRes13	Allow for the establishment of a national usury law that would cap interest rates. April 2. (31-67) C-2		
146/SConRes13	Allow for reductions in the estate tax. April 2. (51-48) C-3	267/HR3435	Provide a termination date for the Troubled Asset Relief Program. August 6. (41-56) L-3
148/SConRes13	Block federal bailouts for auto companies. April 2. (31-66) L-3	270/HR3435	Provide an additional \$2 billion for the "cash-for-clunkers" vehicle trade-in program. August 6. (60-37) L-3
154/SConRes13	Approve the Democrats' fiscal 2010 budget resolution. April 2. (55-43) L-3	274/PN323	Confirm Cass Sunstein as administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget. September 10. (57-40) L-3
174/S896	Allow bankruptcy judges to modify mortgage terms. April 30. (45-51; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) C-3	308/HR3326	Prohibit funding for contractors that require employees to sign mandatory arbitration clauses for sexual-harassment cases. October 6. (68-30) L-3
179/S896	Reduce the authorized level of the Troubled Asset Relief Program. May 5. (47-48) L-3	325/S1776	Invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to a bill preventing scheduled cuts to Medicare physician payments. October 21. (47-53; 60 votes required to invoke cloture) C-2
225/HR2892	Bar funds from being used to prevent the importation of prescription drugs from Canada. July 9. (55-36) L-1	353/HR3590	Invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to health care reform legislation. November 21. (60-39; 60 votes required to invoke cloture) L-3
226/HR2892	Set aside government contracts for minority-owned, disabled-owned, and women-owned businesses. July 9. (67-24) L-2	355/HR3590	Boost health insurance coverage of preventive services for women. December 3. (61-39; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) L-3
244/HR3183	Waive budget rules on an amendment that would prohibit the Treasury Department from providing additional funds to automakers from the Troubled Asset Relief Program. July 29. (38-59;		

SMART Invests 5X more than other industries. BUSINESS

In 2009, freight rail invested near-record levels in maintaining and modernizing America's freight network. That's how to pull a nation out of a recession.
Learn more at FreightRailWorks.org.

FREIGHT RAIL WORKS

358/HR3590	Eliminate cuts to Medicare from the health care reform legislation. December 3. (42-58; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) L-3	26/HR2	Make unborn children eligible for coverage under the State Children's Health Insurance Program. January 29. (39-59) L-3
360/HR3590	Eliminate a new federally backed long-term-care insurance program from the health care reform legislation. December 4. (51-47; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) L-3	27/HR2	Give citizen children a tax deduction equal to benefits provided to noncitizen children under the State Children's Health Insurance Program. January 29. (40-58) L-3
365/HR3590	Limit the compensation packages of health insurance executives. December 6. (56-42; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) C-3	32/PN64-7	Confirm Eric Holder as attorney general. February 2. (75-21) L-2
366/HR3590	Limit contingency fees that attorneys can collect in medical-malpractice cases. December 6. (32-66; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) L-2	47/HR1	Allow universities that receive economic stimulus funds for facilities to use those facilities for religious purposes. February 5. (43-54) L-3
371/HR3288	Proceed to debate on a conference report covering six unfinished fiscal 2010 appropriations bills. December 10. (56-43) L-3	56/HR1	Prohibit the use of economic stimulus funds for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). February 6. (45-51) L-3
376/HR3590	Send the health care reform bill back to the Senate Finance Committee to eliminate tax increases in the legislation. December 15. (45-54; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) L-3	72/S160	Repeal the District of Columbia's gun control laws. February 26. (62-36) C-2
389/HR3590	Uphold a point of order stating that the mandate in the health care reform bill requiring individuals to obtain insurance is unconstitutional. December 23. (39-60) L-3	73/S160	Provide the District of Columbia a voting seat in the House and Utah an additional seat. February 26. (61-37; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) L-3
396/HR3590	Approve health care reform legislation, including a provision allowing private firms to offer national insurance policies that would be overseen by the Office of Personnel Management. December 24. (60-39) L-3	81/HR1105	Prohibit federal funding for international organizations that support "coercive abortions." March 5. (39-55) L-3
397/HR4314	Raise the federal debt ceiling to \$12.4 trillion. December 24. (60-39; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) L-3	92/HR1105	Bar the use of funds for the Federal Communications Commission to reinstate the fairness doctrine that required broadcasters to air opposing viewpoints. March 10. (47-50) L-3
Social Issues (38 votes)		93/HR1105	Table an amendment extending an employment eligibility verification system related to immigration. March 10. (50-47) L-3
8/S181	Table an amendment providing employers a greater chance to defend against pay-discrimination charges. January 22. (53-43) L-3	94/HR1105	Strike restrictions on the District of Columbia school voucher program. March 10. (39-58) L-3
14/S181	Overturn the Supreme Court's ruling in <i>Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber</i> by extending the statute of limitations in pay-discrimination lawsuits. January 22. (61-36; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) L-3	97/PN68	Confirm David Ogden to be deputy attorney general. March 12. (65-28) L-3
19/HR2	Restore the "Mexico City policy" that prohibits federal funding for international organizations that perform or promote abortion services. January 28. (37-60) L-3	98/PN71	Confirm Thomas Perrelli to be associate attorney general. March 12. (72-20) L-2
		107/PN67	Confirm Elena Kagan to be solicitor general. March 19. (61-31) L-3
		111/HR1388	Table an amendment allowing funding for pregnancy crisis centers, including ones that counsel against abortion. March 25. (56-41) L-3
		115/HR1388	Expand and reauthorize national-service programs. March 26. (79-19; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) L-2

145/SConRes13	Waive budget rules on an amendment ensuring that Amtrak passengers can carry firearms in their checked baggage. April 2. (63-35; 60 votes required to waive the Budget Act) C-2	206/HR1256	Invoke cloture on a bill authorizing the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco products. June 10. (67-30; 60 votes required to invoke cloture) L-3
150/SConRes13	Waive budget rules on an amendment creating a point of order against appropriations bills that don't boost funding for the construction of a southwest border fence. April 2. (36-61; 60 votes required to waive the Budget Act) L-3	219/HR2892	Table a provision that would make permanent the E-Verify program, which allows employers to check the immigration status of potential hires, and require government contractors to use the program. July 8. (44-53) C-2
152/SConRes13	Prohibit discrimination against health care providers who refuse to provide abortion services. April 2. (41-56) L-3	220/HR2892	Require the completion of 700 miles of southwest border fencing. July 8. (54-44) C-1
153/SConRes13	Require drug testing for welfare recipients. April 2. (18-79) L-2	233/S1390	Invoke cloture on measure that would expand the definition of "hate crimes" to include actions based on a victim's gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. July 16. (63-28; 60 votes required to invoke cloture) L-3
172/PN188	Confirm Kathleen Sebelius as secretary of Health and Human Services. April 28. (65-31; 60 votes required for confirmation because of a unanimous consent agreement) L-3	237/S1390	Allow citizens to carry concealed firearms across state borders. July 22. (58-39; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) L-2
188/HR627	Permit people to carry guns in national parks and wildlife refuges. May 12. (67-29; 60 votes required for passage because of a unanimous consent agreement) C-2	262/PN506	Confirm Sonia Sotomayor as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. August 6. (68-31) L-3
190/HR627	Prevent illegal immigrants from opening credit card accounts. May 13. (28-65) L-3	279/HR3288	Permit Amtrak passengers to transport firearms and ammunition in their checked baggage. September 16. (68-30) C-2
205/HR1256	Reduce restrictions in a bill authorizing the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco products. June 9. (36-60) L-3	280/HR3288	Affirm community-service requirements for public housing recipients. September 16. (73-25) C-1

BALANCE \$1 in = \$3 out SHEET

Every dollar invested in freight rail returns \$3 for America. That's why we'll power the country's economic recovery.

Learn more at FreightRailWorks.org.

FREIGHT RAIL WORKS

306/PN261 Confirm Thomas Perez as assistant attorney general. October 6. (72-22) L-2

326/HR2647 Invoke cloture on the fiscal 2010 Defense authorization conference report, including a measure that would expand the definition of “hate crimes” to include actions based on a victim’s gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. October 22. (64-35; 60 votes required to invoke cloture) L-3

369/HR3590 Table an amendment prohibiting the use of federal funds for health insurance programs that cover abortion. December 8. (54-45) L-3

Foreign Policy (13 votes)

44/HR1 Eliminate “Buy American” provisions from the economic stimulus bill. February 4. (31-65) L-3

83/HR1105 Prohibit federal funding for the United Nations if it imposes taxes on Americans. March 5. (43-51) L-3

85/HR1105 Prohibit contracts to companies with business in Iran’s energy sector. March 5. (41-53) L-3

87/HR1105 Require a State Department report on counter-smuggling efforts in Gaza. March 9. (34-61) L-3

88/HR1105 Require State Department certification that no federal funds are being diverted to Hamas. March 9. (39-56) L-3

159/PN171 Confirm Christopher Hill as U.S. ambassador to Iraq. April 21. (73-23) L-2

201/HR2346 Strike increased funding for the International Monetary Fund. May 21. (30-64) L-3

212/PN225 Invoke cloture on nomination of Harold Koh to be State Department legal counsel. June 24. (65-31; 60 votes required to invoke cloture) L-3

238/S1390 Express the sense of the Senate to support a review of sanctions against North Korea. July 22. (66-31) L-3

239/S1390 Express the sense of the Senate that North Korea should be designated a state sponsor of terrorism. July 22. (43-54) L-3

338/HR2847 Table an amendment blocking the prosecution of terrorism suspects in civilian courts. November 5. (54-45) L-3

347/HR3082 Table an amendment blocking the construction in the United States of a replacement facility to hold prisoners from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. November 17. (57-43) L-3

351/S1963 Cut United Nations funding and give it to disabled veterans’ caregivers instead. November 19. (32-66) L-3

HOUSE (92 votes)

Economic Issues (50 votes)

16/HR2 Expand and reauthorize the State Children’s Health Insurance Program. January 14. (289-139) L-3

19/HR384 Permit up to \$100 billion from the Troubled Asset Relief Program to be used for mitigation of home foreclosures. January 15. (275-152) L-3

25/HR384 Repeal the authority to spend the second half of the funds for the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program. January 21. (199-228) L-3

26/HR384 Approve restrictions on the use of the second half of the funds for the Troubled Asset Relief Program. January 21. (260-166) L-3

44/HR1 Approve the Republican alternative on economic stimulus legislation focusing on tax cuts. January 28. (170-266) L-3

46/HR1 Approve an \$819.5 billion economic stimulus bill. January 28. (244-188) L-3

86/HR1105 Pass the \$410 billion fiscal 2009 omnibus appropriations bill. February 25. (245-178) L-3

104/HR1106 Allow bankruptcy judges to modify mortgage terms. March 5. (234-191) L-3

122/HR1262 Remove Davis-Bacon prevailing-wage requirements from clean-water projects. March 12. (140-284) L-3

139/HR1388 Bar political or lobbying activities by individuals participating in national service programs. March 18. (318-105) C-1

143/HR1586 Impose a 90 percent tax on bonuses received by certain recipients of the Troubled Asset Relief Program. March 19. (328-93; 281 votes required in this case to pass under suspension of the rules) L-2

153/HR146 Approve omnibus public lands legislation. March 25. (285-140) L-3

180/HR1664 Allow institutions that enter into a payment schedule with the Treasury Department to be exempt from restrictions on unreasonable and excessive executive compensation. April 1. (228-198) C-2

182/HR1664 Prohibit unreasonable and excessive compensation for employees of firms that benefited from the Troubled Asset Relief Program. April 1. (247-171) L-3

188/HConRes85	Approve the Congressional Progressive Caucus substitute to the fiscal 2010 budget resolution. April 2. (84-348) C-1	372/HR2847	Bar the use of funds to establish a National Climate Service. June 18. (161-262) L-3
189/HConRes85	Approve the Republican Study Committee substitute to the fiscal 2010 budget resolution. April 2. (111-322) L-2	469/HR2996	Reduce funding for the Environmental Protection Agency by 38 percent. June 26. (170-261) L-3
190/HConRes85	Approve the Congressional Black Caucus substitute to the fiscal 2010 budget resolution. April 2. (113-318) C-1	476/HR2454	Approve a Republican substitute plan to achieve energy independence. June 26. (172-256) L-3
191/HConRes85	Approve the Republican substitute to the fiscal 2010 budget resolution. April 2. (137-293) L-3	477/HR2454	Create a cap-and-trade system to limit greenhouse-gas emissions and require electric utilities to increase their use of renewable sources. June 26. (219-212) L-3
192/HConRes85	Approve the Democrats' fiscal 2010 budget resolution. April 2. (233-196) L-3	610/HR2920	Set annual discretionary spending caps and limit total spending and deficits to a percentage of the gross domestic product. July 22. (169-259) L-3
228/HR627	Restrict financing charges and other lending practices by credit card companies. April 30. (357-70) L-2	612/HR2920	Establish a statutory "pay-as-you-go" law that would require some tax cuts and spending increases to be offset by tax increases or spending cuts. July 22. (265-166) L-3
242/HR1728	Set tougher standards on mortgage lenders. May 7. (300-114) L-2	620/HR3288	Strike funds for the Hope VI public housing program. July 23. (152-276) L-3
310/HR626	Grant paid leave to federal employees for parental care. June 4. (258-154) L-3	636/HR3288	Reduce funds for the fiscal 2010 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development appropriations bill to the amount requested by the president. July 23. (192-226) L-3
314/HR2751	Authorize \$4 billion for the Transportation Department to establish a "cash-for-clunkers" vehicle trade-in program. June 9. (298-119; 278 votes required in this case to pass under suspension of the rules) L-2	680/HR2749	Strengthen food safety enforcement by the Food



GLOBAL Keeping America competitive. REACH

Freight rail links our nation to the global economy, so America's farmers, businesses, industries—and people—prosper. Learn more at FreightRailWorks.org.

FREIGHT RAIL WORKS

	and Drug Administration, including requiring more-frequent inspections. July 30. (283-142) L-2	851/HR3639	Move up the effective date of credit card reforms enacted earlier in the year. November 4. (331-92) L-2
682/HR3435	Provide an additional \$2 billion for the “cash-for-clunkers” vehicle trade-in program. July 31. (316-109; 284 votes required in this case to pass under suspension of the rules) L-2	875/HR2868	Authorize \$900 million for the Homeland Security Department to codify security standards for chemical plants. November 6. (230-193) L-3
686/HR3269	Require publicly traded companies to permit annual shareholder advisory votes on executive compensation. July 31. (237-185) L-3	887/HR3962	Approve health care reform legislation, including a government-run public option for individuals without private insurance. November 7. (220-215) L-3
709/HR3246	Authorize research and development to reduce the use and emissions of petroleum in passenger and commercial vehicles. September 16. (312-114) L-2	909/HR3961	Prevent scheduled cuts to Medicare physician payments, and establish a statutory “pay-as-you-go” law that would require some tax cuts and spending increases to be offset by tax increases or spending cuts. November 19. (243-183) L-3
719/HR3221	Overhaul the student-loan program by originating all federally backed loans through the Education Department. September 17. (253-171) L-3	928/HR4154	Extend until December 2011 the scheduled repeal of the estate tax. December 3. (187-233) L-3
722/HR3548	Extend unemployment compensation for 13 weeks in states with jobless rates that exceed 8.5 percent. September 22. (331-83; 276 votes required in this case to pass under suspension of the rules) L-1	943/HR4213	Extend various expiring tax provisions for one year. December 9. (241-181) L-3
727/HR324	Require a property owner’s written consent before private property can be included in the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area. September 23. (259-167) C-2	949/HR3288	Approve a conference report covering six unfinished fiscal 2010 appropriations bills. December 10. (221-202) L-3
807/HR3585	Authorize research and development of solar technologies. October 22. (310-106) L-2	963/HR4173	Allow bankruptcy judges to modify mortgage terms. December 11. (188-241) C-2
		968/HR4173	Overhaul regulations governing the financial services industry. December 11. (223-202) L-3

■ How the Vote Ratings Are Calculated

A panel of *National Journal* editors and reporters initially compiled a list of 196 key congressional roll-call votes for 2009–99 votes for the Senate and 97 for the House—and classified them as relating to economic, social, or foreign policy. The ratings system was first devised in 1981 under the direction of Bill Schneider, a political analyst and commentator, and a contributing editor to *National Journal*.

Lists were downloaded from the House and Senate websites showing how all the members voted on the key votes. The votes in each issue area were then subjected to a principal-components analysis, a statistical

procedure designed to determine the degree to which each vote resembled other votes in the same category (the same members tending to vote together).

Five of the 196 votes (all in the House) were dropped from the analysis because they were statistically unrelated to others in the same issue area. These typically were votes that reflected regional and special-interest concerns, rather than general ideology.

The analysis also revealed which yea votes correlated with which nay votes within each issue area (members voting yea on certain issues tended to vote nay on others). The yea and nay positions on each roll call were then identified as conservative or liberal.

Each roll-call vote was assigned a weight from 1 (lowest) to 3 (highest), based on the degree to which it correlated with other votes in the same issue area. A higher weight means that a vote was more strongly correlated with other votes and was therefore a better test of economic, social, or foreign-policy ideology. The votes in each issue area were combined in an index (liberal or conservative votes as a percentage of total votes cast, with each vote weighted 1, 2, or 3).

Absences and abstentions were not counted; instead, the percentage base was adjusted to compensate for missed roll calls. A member who missed more than half of the votes in any issue category was

988/HR4314	Raise the federal debt ceiling to \$12.4 trillion. December 16. (218-214) L-3	222/HR1913	Expand the definition of “hate crimes” to include actions against military or law enforcement personnel, and permit the death penalty for certain crimes. April 29. (185-241) L-3
991/HR2847	Approve Democratic leaders’ \$150 billion jobs package, including infrastructure funds and state and local government aid. December 16. (217-212) L-3	223/HR1913	Expand the definition of “hate crimes” to include actions based on a victim’s gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. April 29. (249-175) L-3
Social Issues (22 votes)			
8/HR12	Require companies to meet a higher standard for justifying pay disparities between men and women, and increase the amount of damages in pay discrimination lawsuits. January 9. (256-163) L-3	277/HR627	Permit people to carry guns in national parks and wildlife refuges. May 20. (279-147) C-2
9/HR11	Overtake the Supreme Court’s ruling in <i>Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber</i> by extending the statute of limitations in pay-discrimination lawsuits. January 9. (247-171) L-3	304/HR2200	Grant the Transportation Security Administration additional authority to issue an emergency regulation to respond to an imminent threat. June 4. (219-211) C-3
72/HR911	Require health and safety standards to prevent child abuse and neglect in residential housing programs. February 23. (295-102; 265 votes required in this case to pass under suspension of the rules) L-2	359/HR2847	Strike \$440 million in funding for the Legal Services Corp. June 18. (105-323) L-2
140/HR1388	Expand and reauthorize national service programs. March 18. (321-105) L-2	442/HR2892	Bar the use of funds to employ illegal immigrants. June 24. (349-84) C-1
187/HR1256	Authorize the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco products. April 2. (298-112) L-2	449/HR2892	Increase funding by \$50 million for the E-Verify program, which allows employers to check the immigration status of potential hires. June 24. (234-193) C-3
206/HR1139	Increase funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services program. April 23. (342-78; 280 votes required in this case to pass under suspension of the rules) L-2	553/HRes644	Approve the rule for floor debate on the fiscal 2010 Financial Services appropriations bill, which barred amendments to restrict abortion in the District of Columbia. July 16. (216-213) L-3
		570/HR3170	Table procedural appeal that would have permit-

scored as “missing” in that category (shown as an asterisk [*] in the vote-rating tables).

Members were then ranked from the most liberal to the most conservative in each issue area. These rankings were used to assign liberal and conservative percentile ratings to all members of Congress.

The liberal percentile score means that the member voted more liberal than that percentage of his or her colleagues in that issue area in 2009. The conservative figure means that the member voted more conservative than that percentage of his or her colleagues.

For example, a House member in the 30th percentile of liberals and the 60th

percentile of conservatives on economic issues voted more liberal than 30 percent of the House and more conservative than 60 percent of the House on those issues, and was tied with the remaining 10 percent. The scores do not mean that the member voted liberal 30 percent of the time and voted conservative 60 percent of the time.

Percentile scores can range from a minimum of 0 to a maximum of 100. Some members, however, voted either consistently liberal or consistently conservative on every roll call. As a result, there are ties at both the liberal and the conservative ends of each scale. For that reason, the maximum percentiles are usually less than 100.

Members also receive a composite liberal score and a composite conservative score, each of which is an average of their six issue-based scores. Members who missed more than half of the votes in any of the three issue categories do not receive composite scores (shown as an asterisk [*] in the vote-rating tables).

To determine a member’s composite liberal score, for example, first add the liberal scores in all three issue areas. Next, in each issue area, calculate 100 minus the member’s conservative score and add the three results together. The two figures are then combined and divided by 6 (the number of individual scores).

ted a vote on a motion to bar funds for abortion services in the District of Columbia except for cases of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is endangered. July 16. (225-195) L-3

607/HR1675 Expand low-income housing programs for persons with disabilities. July 22. (376-51) L-1

638 Table a procedural appeal to permit an amendment that would bar funds to restrict lawful possession or use of firearms in federally assisted housing. July 24. (238-182) L-3

642/HR3293 Bar funds to provide sterile needles or syringes to inject an illegal drug. July 24. (211-218) L-3

643/HR3293 Bar funds to Planned Parenthood for voluntary family-planning programs. July 24. (183-247) L-3

718/HR3221 Bar federal funds for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). September 17. (345-75) C-1

754/HR2647 Instruct House conferees to reject Senate provisions that would expand the definition of "hate crimes" to include actions based on a victim's gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. October 6. (178-234) L-3

884/HR3962 Prohibit the use of federal funds for health insurance programs that cover abortion. November 7. (240-194) C-3

Foreign Policy (20 votes)

264/HR2346 Strike provisions that would shift funding for a Pakistan counterinsurgency program from the Pentagon to the State Department. May 14. (191-237) L-3

321/HR2410 Require the State Department to withhold \$4.5 million from the International Atomic Energy Agency as a response to the amount that the department paid the IAEA for technical cooperation with Cuba, Iran, Sudan, and Syria. June 10. (205-224) L-3

325/HR2410 Express the sense of Congress that Eritrea's support of armed insurgents in Somalia is a terrorist threat, and urge the United Nations to impose sanctions. June 10. (183-245) L-3

327/HR2410 Require the president to impose sanctions on individuals or companies that provide refined petroleum resources to Iran. June 10. (174-250) L-3

328/HR2410 Authorize \$18 billion for the State Department in fiscal 2010. June 10. (235-187) L-3

329/HR2346 Urge conferees to include in the fiscal 2009 supplemental appropriations bill a Senate-approved ban

on the release of photos showing abuse of security detainees. June 11. (267-152) C-2

333/HR1886 Authorize \$1.5 billion annually in nonmilitary aid and \$400 million in military aid to Pakistan, on condition that it complies with requirements to fight terrorist groups. June 11. (234-185) L-3

348/HR2346 Approve the conference report on the \$105.9 billion fiscal 2009 supplemental appropriations bill, chiefly for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. June 16. (226-202) L-2

361/HR2847 Bar the use of funds to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. June 18. (212-213) L-3

453/HR2647 Require the Pentagon to report to Congress on an exit strategy for U.S. military forces in Afghanistan. June 25. (138-278) C-2

455/HR2647 Add \$1.2 billion for funding of the missile defense system. June 25. (171-244) L-3

456/HR2647 Require the Pentagon to report to Congress on its employees' nondisclosure agreements for their official duties. June 25. (186-226) L-3

457/HR2647 Require the Pentagon to videotape interrogations of detainees in its custody, and report to Congress on guidelines for the interrogations. June 25. (224-193) L-3

459/HR2647 Add \$2.6 billion to the Pentagon for procurement of weapons systems and aircraft, with the increases offset by a reduction in military environmental cleanup. June 25. (170-244) L-3

517/HR3081 Cut \$2.2 billion from State Department programs. July 9. (156-271) L-3

520/HR3081 Cut \$506 million from the State Department's multilateral assistance. July 9. (174-256) L-3

661/HR3326 Bar funds for additional procurement of F-22 aircraft. July 30. (269-165) L-3

663/HR3326 Cut \$80 million for research and development for the kinetic-energy interceptor program. July 30. (124-307) C-1

746/HR2892 Instruct House conferees to accept a Senate provision to restrict the rights of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. October 1. (258-163) C-2

769/HR2647 Reject a provision in the fiscal 2010 Defense authorization conference report that permits the transfer to the United States of detainees held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. October 8. (208-216) L-3